

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (cancelled). 1.) A method of sealing or reducing holes or connecting to a tube end, comprising applying axial pressure, on at least one element placed into the hole and being at least temporarily supported, the element having a disc shaped surface with a rim smaller than the diameter of the hole and being of a cone or dome shaped configuration, the axial pressure achieving a radial expansion of the element rim and a press fit with the wall of the hole.

Claim 2. (withdrawn) A device for sealing a hole having a wall of surrounding material, a central axis, and a predetermined inside diameter, the device comprising a disc shaped surface of generally uniform thickness, having a radially outer, annular and planar rim smaller than the diameter of the hole, and having a cone or dome, shaped continuous surface with a central apex raised above the plane of the rim in a first direction, the outer rim having a large enough diameter relative to the diameter of the hole that when the rim is supported in the first direction normal to the axis of the hole the rim expands radially outward to engage the hole wall upon application of an axial force applied in to the central apex in a second opposing

direction, whereby the surface is flattened to span and seal the hole and the rim is expanded radially outward to engage the hole wall.

Claim 3. (withdrawn) A device according to claim 2, further comprising two or more similarly shaped elements assembled on top of each other with the apex of each facing in the same direction, and with a sealing disc formed of elastomer sealing material inserted between two elements.

Claim 4. (withdrawn) A device per claim 2, wherein the cone or dome shaped surface is formed as a transverse bottom at a first end of a cylinder, the surface rim being attached to the first end of the cylinder, and the other, second end of the cylinder comprising a radially outwardly projecting shoulder having a greater diameter than the hole, the apex of the surface being raised relative to the rim toward the second end and the rim being supported in the first direction by the shoulder.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A device to reduce a hole having a wall of surrounding material, a central axis, and a predetermined inside diameter, the device comprising a first frustaconical surface of generally uniform thickness, having a base and a top, with a radially outer planar rim forming the base with a smaller diameter than the hole and a central opening at the top, the rim being of greater diameter than, and concentric with, the central opening, and a second frustaconical surface the same shape as the first surface with

a central opening the same diameter as the first surface opening and a base forming a radially outer planar rim the same diameter as the first surface rim, the second surface being inverted with respect to the first surface such that the first and second surfaces are joined proximate to the central opening of each surface and the rims of each surface are axially separated, the outer rims being engageable with the wall of the hole such that when the device is positioned in the hole with the planes of the rims normal to the axis of the hole and one rim is supported in a first axial direction, upon application of ~~opposing~~ axial ~~forces~~ force applied in a second opposing axial direction to the ~~rims~~ other rim, the axial separation of the rims is reduced and the rims are expanded radially outward to engage the hole wall

Claims 6. (Cancelled) Device per claim 2, characterized by the element being a tube end (9) or also a threaded bolt with a flange (10), which forms the disc shaped surface with some or some shaped configuration.

Claims 7. (Cancelled) Device per claim 2, characterized by the element (4") shoeing a circumferential cone or dome shaped configuration close to the rim

Claims 8. (Cancelled) The device per claim 5, wherein the diameter of the central opening is larger than the diameter of a tube end and small enough that upon application of an axial force applied to the rim in the first direction toward the top and a second axial force

applied against the top in the second opposing direction toward the rim, the central opening reduces to engage the wall of the tube end.

Claims 9. (Cancelled) Device per claim 2, characterized by the element (4'') being a perforated disc with a cone or dome shaped configuration of the circumferential rim zone (12).

Claims 10. (Cancelled) A device in accord with claim 5, wherein the element further comprises a second similarly frustaconical surface with a central opening, inverted with respect to the first surface such that the top of the second surface faces a second opposite axial direction toward the first surface, and the first and second surfaces are joined proximate to the central opening.

Claim 11. (Previously Amended) A device in accord with claim 5, wherein the element further comprises an annulus of elastomer inserted and retained between the first and second surfaces.

Claim 12 (New) A device for sealing a hole having a wall of surrounding material, a central axis, and a predetermined inside diameter, the device a cone or dome shaped continuous surface formed as a transverse bottom at a first end of a cylinder, the surface being of generally uniform thickness and having a radially outer, annular and planar rim smaller than the

diameter of the hole, the surface rim being attached to the first end of the cylinder and the other, second end of the cylinder comprising a radially outwardly projecting shoulder having a greater diameter than the hole, the apex of the surface being raised relative to the surface rim in a first axial direction toward the second cylinder end, and the rim is supported in the first direction by the cylinder and rim has a large enough diameter relative to the diameter of the hole that upon application of an axial force applied in to the central apex in a second axial direction opposite to the first direction, the surface is flattened to span and seal the hole and the rim is expanded radially outward to engage the hole wall.